Monitoring industrial Pollution on the country

2774. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune has warned of acid rains all over India;

(b) whether Government have taken congnisance of this warning indicating that current pollution trends point to an abnormal increase in atmospheric sulphur and nitrogen oxides, which are considered precursor gases for rain acidification; and

(c) whether Government have any set-up for monitoring industrial pollution beyond permissible levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The studies on acid rain carried out by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology indicated that there is no threat of acid rain in India at present since the suspended particulates in the atmosphere are highly alkaline and neutralise the acidity in rain water. Further, the studies also indicated that acid rain reported in Chembur during 1947—80 has now transfermed into alkaline rain due to control measures adopted by the industrial complexes in this region. According to the ambient air quality monitoring carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board the levels of suspended particulate matter are on the higher side while the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are within the prescribed standards.

(c) The Government set-up for monitoring industrial pollution includes the following:—

(i) Emission and effluent standards for major categories of industries have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) Industies have been asked to comply with the consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluent and emissions within the stipulated standards.

(iii) Ambient air and water quality standards have been evolved.

(iv) A network of ambient air and water quality monitoring stations has been set up of check the pollution levels.

(v) Legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

"Collection of Data of forestry Activities in Godavari district"

2775. SHRI HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Regional CCF based at Bangalore has been involved in assisting State Government of Andhra Pradesh to collect data covering all the facets of forestry activities in West and East Godavari districts;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to assist the Government of Andhra Pradesh to plug loopholes in forestry management in Polavaram area of West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) One of the functions of the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangalore is to assist, inter-alia, the state of Andhra Pradesh in streamlining collection,